

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended). Method of removing dirt by means of steam and a cleaning agent, which method comprises the steps of supplying steam, supplying cleaning agent, preheating the cleaning agent by heat-exchanging contact with the steam, injecting the preheated cleaning agent into the steam and mixing it with the steam, and bringing the obtained mixture into contact in a gaseous state with the dirt to be removed ~~wherein the cleaning agent is injected into the steam and is brought into contact in a gaseous state with the dirt to be removed.~~

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (original). Method according to claim 1, wherein the cleaning agent is preheated by heat exchange with the steam.

Claim 5 (original). Method according to claim 1, wherein the steam is at a pressure of less than 10 bar.

Claim 6 (previously amended). Method according to claim 1, wherein the steam has a temperature ranging from 120 to 160°C.

Claim 7 (original). Method according to claim 1, wherein the dirt to be removed is pretreated with steam prior to bringing the gaseous mixture of steam and cleaning agent into contact with the dirt.

Claim 8 (original). Method according to claim 1, wherein the treated dirt is collected by suction.

Claim 9 (previously amended). Method according to claim 1, wherein the cleaning agent is an aqueous solution that comprises phosphate compounds, said compounds comprising at least a combination of orthophosphate, polyphosphate and pyrophosphate, and also at least an anionic surfactant, a non-polar organic solvent and an emulsifier.

Claim 10 (previously amended). Method according to claim 1, wherein the ratio of steam to cleaning agent is in the range of 4-8:1.

Claims 11-21 (withdrawn).

Claim 22 (previously added). Method according to claim 10, wherein the ratio of steam to cleaning agent is 6:1.

Claim 23 (previously added). Method according to claim 1, wherein the dirt to be removed comprises chewing gum residues.

Claim 24 (previously added). Method according to claim 9, wherein the dirt to be removed comprises chewing gum residues.